

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**METHOD, APPARATUS, AND PROGRAM FOR SERVICE PROCESSOR
SURVEILLANCE WITH MULTIPLE PARTITIONS**

A service processor surveillance mechanism is
5 provided for multiple partitions. Each partition stores
its own official response. The surveillance routine
checks to see if it has enough time for the service
processor to respond to its previous probe. If
10 sufficient time has not passed, the surveillance code
returns to the calling function with the partition's
official response. If sufficient time has passed, the
surveillance code reads the surveillance byte in
nonvolatile random access memory. The surveillance code
15 then determines the current state of the service
processor and determines whether the official response
needs to be updated. If the surveillance code updates
the official response, the partition's official response
is set to the updated official response and returns the
20 partition's official response. If the official response
has not changed since the last time the partition probed
the surveillance byte, then the surveillance code returns
a neutral value.

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